

EMOTION, YET PEACE.  
PASSION, YET SERENITY.  
CHAOS, YET HARMONY.  
DEATH, YET THE FORCE

*May those of us who knew him feel his creative  
spirit as we start our future endeavors, and  
may his life force live on in our memories.*

"NCELO1DUA. VVIU CUMKIVM."

# A CELEBRATION OF LIFE



DEAN M. O'DONNELL

1964-2022

Sunday, May 1, 2022

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

MILOR AR MEV NMA EKHMA

DEKKNIDUA. VVIU NMTVMU1V."

"AVOZKE TMA 'KOEI"





# OBITUARY

Dean Michael O'Donnell, age 57, died unexpectedly but peacefully in his home on the morning of March 7, 2022.

Born in Easton, PA, he was the son of Cornelius and Lorraine O'Donnell of Easton, PA. Surviving are his wife Elizabeth Tustian of Framingham, MA, his sister Lori Kichline, nieces Janet and Jerica, and great-niece Jemma of PA.

Dean was active in Boy Scouts and attained the rank of Eagle Scout. He received his BS in Physics at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in 1986, and his MFA in Dramatic Writing at Brandeis University in 1990. He was a published playwright, novelist, and game writer. His short film, *Legwork* (2002), can be found on YouTube. He was one of the earliest participants in the WPI New Voices Playwriting Festival and wrote many plays for it.

Dean taught for 29 years at WPI and was one of the architects of the Interactive Media and Games Development (IMGD) program. He taught his students the fine art of creating Artificial Reality Games (ARGs) and encouraged them to be creative in designing their own narratives. He never found a puzzle he wasn't excited to solve. He was a mentor to many aspiring game designers and was passionate about the artistic possibilities of interactive games.

Dean was an avid writer and gamer whose love of creative collaboration and play shone through all aspects of his life. His sense of silliness and fun was immense, and he brought storytelling into everything he did. His stories and humor will be missed.

# ORDER OF EVENTS

Introductory Music: "In My Life"  
by John Lennon and Paul McCartney

Welcome. . . . . Gregory Morisse

Reading & Remarks . . . . . Elizabeth Tustian

Remarks from High School Friends. . . . . Joan Ashley, Rob Dennis,  
David Hawk, Kerrie Tilney

Remarks from a College Friend. . . . . David Lugowski

Reading from  
*He is Gone (Remember Me)* by David Harkins. . . . . Chad Pytel

Video Tribute produced by IMGD  
Music: "No One Is Alone"  
from *Into the Woods* by Stephen Sondheim

Remarks from a WPI Theater Colleague. . . . . Susan Vick

Remarks from a WPI IMGD Colleague . . . . . Mark Claypool

WPI Faculty Memorial Resolution . . . . . Jennifer DeWinter

Reading from  
*The Return of the King* by J.R.R. Tolken and  
Farewell . . . . . Gregory Morisse

Recessional Music: "Into the West"  
by Annie Lenox and Howard Shore

*There will be a reception at Higgins House  
following the ceremony.*